

REC-16

SAC, Richmond

3/22/60

EX 109 Director, FBI

UNITED STATES v. NATIONAL
WRESTLING ALLIANCE
ANTITRUST

Enclosed for Richmond are two copies and for the information of Charlotte is one copy of Antitrust Division letter dated 3/18/60, requesting that certain investigation be conducted in this matter. Also enclosed for the information of Richmond are one copy of Antitrust Division letter dated 12/3/59 and one copy of report of SA [redacted] dated 12/4/59, at Washington Field.

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Richmond immediately institute the requested investigation. Confine investigation to interview of Olivas and wrestler employed by Crockett.

Concerning participation of television stations and newspapers in efforts to force Olivas out of Richmond territory, conduct no investigation but obtain from Olivas detailed information as to threats made, actions taken, identity and locations of parties involved and identity and locations of persons able to furnish substantiating information.

Concerning the interview of the wrestler in Crockett's office, such interview is not to be conducted in the presence of Olivas or [redacted]; however, their assistance in arranging the interview may be sought. The Antitrust Division has advised that this wrestler is a close friend of Olivas and has furnished certain information to Olivas. The wrestler should not be interviewed at his place of employment and the Antitrust Division has advised that Olivas probably would make arrangements for the wrestler to be interviewed in Richmond.

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The identity and address of this wrestler, together with appropriate background information should be furnished to Charlotte in the event it is necessary to request that Charlotte conduct that interview.

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Richmond is origin. All investigation in this matter is to be completed by office of origin and any auxiliary offices by 4/8/60. Submit closing report by 4/15/60.

Enclosures (4)

1 - Charlotte (Info) - Enclosure

FJB:eem/egn

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TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

SAC, Richmond
RE: UNITED STATES v. NATIONAL
WRESTLING ALLIANCE

NOTE: [] This request was discussed with Antitrust Attorney [] who furnished the info regarding the relationship between Olivas and the wrestler. [] was also agreeable to not contacting television stations or newspapers pending review of results of interview with Olivas. [] was advised that the wrestler would not be interviewed in the presence of Olivas or []

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REC-66

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: March 18, 1960

FROM : Robert A. Backs, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division

File: 60-406-3

SUBJECT: United States v. National Wrestling Alliance

The purpose of this memorandum is to request additional investigation by the Bureau of alleged violation of the Final Consent Judgment entered in the District Court of Iowa on October 15, 1956 in the above entitled case. The essence of the subject matter of the requested investigation is set forth in my memorandum of December 3, 1959 and the report of Special Agents Carlton V. Broden and [] dated December 4, 1959.

Since the date of that memorandum and report, the Virginia State Athletic Commission has held two additional hearings, on December 15, 1959 and January 6, 1960, which have tended to confirm the complaint of William Olivas that, in violation of the Judgment, he has been and is being prevented from securing wrestlers for promotions in the State of Virginia by the activity, separate and combined, of James A. Whitfield, known as Billy Lewis of Richmond, Virginia, James Crockett of Charlotte, North Carolina and Joe "Toots" Mondt of New York, New York. All of whom are individually bound by the Judgment.

It appears that early in 1959 the complainant, William V. Olivas, attempted to enter the business of promoting wrestling matches in Virginia which has long been known as Bill Lewis's "territory." The complaint involves the actions taken by the defendant Lewis and the defendants Crockett and Mondt and their agents to drive Olivas out of Virginia as a promoter. Two of the above defendants, Lewis and Crockett, and two officers of "Toots" Mondt's "Capitol Wrestling Corporation", viz. Vince McMahon and Phil Sacco, testified at length before the Commission and denied the charges of Olivas. The denials appear to be patently false but it is desirable to investigate the matter fully before commencing an action for contempt.

First, it is desirable to have an agent interview Mr. Olivas and go over his story in detail with the idea of obtaining as many "leads" as possible to persons and events that can substantiate Olivas' story. Mr. Olivas' attorney, [] Traveler's Building, Richmond, Virginia, should be first contacted to set up the appointment with Mr. Olivas. Upon receipt of this report, the Antitrust Division will designate which of the "leads" it considers particularly desirable to explore further. However, should any of the leads be such as may be readily investigated by the agent in or around Richmond, it will be appreciated if the agent will do so on his own initiative without awaiting further directions. For example,

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Olivas has charged that Lewis has made numerous threats to have television stations refuse to carry Olivas' "shows" and to have friendly newspaper reporters do what they could to force Olivas out of the Richmond territory. It will be appreciated if the agent will contact such stations and parties in an attempt to verify the charge.

A wrestler, known as Dr. Jerry Graham, whom both Olivas and his attorney [] say could substantiate much that Olivas has charged, was interviewed by Special Agents Broden and [] on December 3, 1959 without success and Graham was also called to testify before the Commission. In his testimony he denied knowledge of any of the facts charged by Olivas, however, it appears that the denial was the result of threats made to Graham by Vince McMahon. (The waiting room adjoining the room in which the hearings were held was secretly "bugged" by [] and the tape recording contains snatches of conversation between Crockett and McMahon in the course of which McMahon told Crockett, "I told that [] Jerry a few times, 'Listen, - I don't care about your feelings - don't you do anything to hurt Bill Lewis - because if you do you're hanging yourself - you know where your bread is buttered.' 'Self preservation,' he said, ' [] it.'") Graham then left for a European wrestling tour. However, on a recent telecast in Washington, D. C., Dr. Graham was announced as one of the participating wrestlers. The agent should inform Olivas and [] of Graham's return to this country and see if they can supply any facts which would make it worthwhile for the Bureau to again interview Graham.

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We also understand that Mr. Crockett, of Charlotte, North Carolina, has a wrestler employed in his office who is aware of most of the facts charged by Olivas and would make an excellent witness if he would be willing to talk. To force him to do so, however, might cost him his job and his livelihood and we would be reluctant to impose this sacrifice upon him. The agent should inquire of Olivas and [] as to the possibility of arranging a meeting with the wrestler at which Olivas and [] could also be present, but of which Crockett could be kept in ignorance. If such a meeting can be arranged, the agent is requested to conduct the interview and ascertain to what extent the wrestler can, or is willing to talk. If he is unwilling to testify or insists that he could testify only at the expense of losing his livelihood, the agent should ascertain if he can supply any facts which might be useful, in the absence of his testifying, to corroborate the allegations of Olivas.

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Messrs. [] and [] of this Division are familiar with the facts in this matter and may be contacted should additional information from this Division be required.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE,
Defendant.

Civil Action No. 3-729
Filed: October 15, 1956

C O M P L A I N T

The United States of America, plaintiff, by its attorneys, acting under the direction of the Attorney General of the United States, brings this action against the defendant named herein, and complains and alleges as follows:

I

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This complaint is filed and these proceedings are instituted under Section 4 of the Act of Congress of July 2, 1890, c. 647, 26 Stat. 209; (15 U.S.C. Sec. 4) as amended, entitled "An Act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies," commonly known as the Sherman Act, in order to prevent and restrain continuing violations by the defendant, as hereinafter alleged, of Sections 1 and 2 of said Act.

2. The National Wrestling Alliance is an Iowa corporation, transacts business and is found within the Southern District of Iowa, Central Division. The offenses hereinafter alleged have been and are being carried out in part within said district and division.

II

DEFINITIONS

3. As used herein:

(a) "person" means an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association or other business or legal entity.

(b) "Exhibition" means a performance of professional

wrestlers and, unless qualified, includes:

- (i) a public exhibition, which may or may not be televised, at which revenue is derived from the sale of admission tickets, and
- (ii) a studio exhibition, at which the event is either televised or filmed, or televised and filmed.

(c) "Promoter" means a person who engages in the business of sponsoring and presenting exhibitions.

(d) "Booker" means a person who, for a fee or commission, arranges with a promoter or promoters for the participation of professional wrestlers in exhibitions.

(e) "Related promotion" means an exhibition in which a booker either participates as a promoter or has a financial interest in addition to a claim for a booking fee or commission.

(f) "Unrelated promotion" means an exhibition in which a booker has no financial interest other than his claim for a booking fee or commission.

(g) "Members" means members of defendant National Wrestling Alliance.

(h) "Territory" means the areas or localities in which the respective members claim the exclusive right to book wrestling exhibitions.

III

THE DEFENDANT

4. National Wrestling Alliance, hereinafter referred to as "NWA", is hereby made a defendant. It is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Iowa. NWA is an association with a membership consisting of approximately thirty-five bookers. It was incorporated in or about January 1951 as the successor to an unincorporated association of bookers, organized in or about 1948, also known

as the National Wrestling Alliance or NWA. Since in or about 1950, NWA has maintained its principal offices and headquarters at the Claridge Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

5. Wherever in this complaint reference is made to any act, deed or transaction on the part of the defendant, said reference shall be deemed to mean that the officers, directors, agents and employees of said defendant authorized, ordered, or did such act, deed or transaction for or on behalf of said defendant or its predecessor while actively engaged in the management, direction and control of its affairs.

IV

CO-CONSPIRATORS

6. The members and former members of NWA, and the predecessor unincorporated association, also known as the National Wrestling Alliance or NWA, have participated as co-conspirators in the offense hereinafter charged and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of said offense.

V

TRADE AND COMMERCE

7. The exhibitions of professional wrestlers constitute a distinct category of entertainment. Professional wrestlers do not usually engage in more than one exhibition in a given community or locality before moving on to another. They customarily tour throughout the United States, or a large part thereof, frequently participating in several pre-arranged exhibitions each week in different communities or localities. Annually the American public spends approximately \$20 million to attend public exhibitions. The revenues from studio exhibitions have approximated \$5 million.

8. Despite the itinerant nature of their performances, most professional wrestlers do not retain the services of managers to arrange their appearances in exhibitions and to book their tours. These services are provided by the NWA and its members, and exhibitions are usually scheduled so that appearances will be frequent and so that

successive exhibitions will be given in communities or localities which are close to one another, thereby minimizing travel expenses.

9. In booking professional wrestlers, the operations and activities of defendant NWA and its members in entering into contracts or arrangements in the wrestlers' behalf with promoters are nationwide. The majority of bookings are for unrelated promotions.

10. The members of the defendant NWA are the only large-scale bookers in the United States, representing virtually all of the professional wrestlers, accounting for more than 95 percent of all professional wrestlers' bookings for public exhibitions and the majority of their bookings for studio exhibitions, and generally have no comparable competitors.

11. Besides operating in the booking field, many members engage in related promotions, a substantial number of which are televised or filmed.

12. The defendant NWA and its members in the conduct of their booking businesses and related promotions are engaged in interstate trade and commerce. The businesses involve a continuous two-way flow across state lines of posters, advertising copy, trade data, contracts, reports, bills, cash, checks, and written and verbal communications, and a continuous use of interstate transportation and communication facilities.

13. Motion pictures of exhibitions booked by members, including related promotions, are sold or licensed and distributed to customers located in various states of the United States other than the state of production of such motion pictures. The nationwide interest in exhibitions over television networks by professional wrestlers booked by the members pursuant to agreements and understandings with the defendant NWA has enabled members to sell, for substantial sums of money, rights to advertise products and services in connection with such exhibitions. Such exhibitions originate from arenas, stadia and studios located in various states of the United States and are televised and

broadcast over the facilities of many television stations located in various states other than the states of origination.

VI

OFFENSES CHARGED

14. The defendant, the co-conspirators, and other persons unknown to the plaintiff, are parties to unlawful combinations and conspiracies which began on or about July 18, 1948, the exact date being unknown to the plaintiff, to restrain and monopolize, and have unlawfully attempted to monopolize and have unlawfully monopolized, the aforesaid trade and commerce in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act. The defendant is continuing and will continue said offenses unless the relief hereinafter prayed for is granted.

15. The combinations and conspiracies, attempt to monopolize and monopolization herein charged have consisted of a continuing agreement and concert of action among the defendant, the co-conspirators, and other persons unknown to the plaintiff, the substantial terms of which have been and are that the defendant and the co-conspirators agree:

- (a) To recognize each member as possessing a territory;
- (b) To refrain from competing with any other member in the booking of exhibitions in the other member's territory;
- (c) To prevent any member from competing in the booking of exhibitions in another member's territory;
- (d) To assist each member to exclude all non-members from booking exhibitions in the member's territory;
- (e) To control the booking markets constituted by the promoters in each member's territory;
- (f) To assist each member to induce or compel all promoters within his territory to obtain wrestlers exclusively from said member;
- (g) To prevent others from booking professional wrestlers in the territory of any member;

(h) To exclude non-members from engaging in business as bookers;

(i) To black-list and refrain from booking professional wrestlers who accept engagements not booked by a member;

(j) To discourage professional wrestlers from appearing in studio exhibitions; and

(k) To recognize only three world championship titles, advertise, feature, and book such recognized title holders as common property of the defendant and co-conspirators, require any wrestler recognized as the holder of a world championship title to agree to wrestle only in performances booked by members as a condition of recognition, limit the percentage of the gate paid the wrestler recognized as the world's heavyweight champion, and fix a minimum admission charge for all public exhibitions of such champion.

16. Pursuant to the aforesaid combinations and conspiracies to restrain and to monopolize, and in attempting to monopolize, and in monopolizing the aforesaid trade and commerce, the defendant, the co-conspirators, and other persons to the plaintiff unknown, have done those things which they agreed to do, as alleged in subparagraphs (a) through (k) inclusive of this complaint.

VII

EFFECT OF THE OFFENSES

17. The offenses hereinbefore alleged have had the following effects, among others:

(a) Competition in the booking of professional wrestlers in interstate commerce and in the promotion of exhibitions throughout the United States has been suppressed and eliminated.

(b) Professional wrestlers and promoters have been compelled to subject themselves to the management and control of defendant and the co-conspirators in order to obtain

adequate interstate bookings.

(c) Promoters of unrelated promotions have been unable generally to obtain professional wrestlers of the same reputation and ability as those booked by members for related promotions.

(d) Wrestlers have been denied the right to seek engagements and championship recognition except under conditions agreeable to the defendant and the co-conspirators.

(e) The benefits of competition among bookers have been denied to promoters, professional wrestlers, television stations, broadcast sponsors, advertisers, persons desiring exhibitions for television broadcasts or theatre presentations, owners of arenas, stadia and studios, and members of the public attending or viewing exhibitions.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff prays:

1. That the Court adjudge and decree that the defendant NWA and the co-conspirators have combined and conspired to restrain and to monopolize, and have attempted to monopolize, and have monopolized the aforesaid interstate trade and commerce, in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act, and that defendant be enjoined and restrained from continuing such violations or committing other violations of like character and effect.

2. That the defendant NWA, and its members, their successors, officers, directors, managers, agents, representatives and employees, and all persons and corporations acting or claiming to act under, through or on behalf of them or any of them, be perpetually enjoined and restrained from continuing to carry out, directly or indirectly, the combinations and conspiracies to restrain and monopolize, the attempts to monopolize and the monopolization of interstate trade and commerce, as hereinbefore alleged, and that they be perpetually enjoined and restrained from engaging in or participating in practices,

contracts, agreements or understandings, or claiming any rights thereunder, having the purpose or effect of continuing, reviving or renewing any of the aforesaid violations of the Sherman Act or any combination or conspiracy having like or similar purposes or effects.

3. That the defendant and its members, their successors, officers, directors, managers, agents, representatives and employees, and all persons and corporations acting or claiming to act under, through or on behalf of them or any of them, be perpetually enjoined and restrained from entering into, adhering to, renewing, maintaining or furthering, directly or indirectly, or inducing others to enter into, any contract, agreement, understanding, plan or program or common course of action to:

(a) Attempt to exclude anyone from engaging in business as a booker or promoter; and

(b) Allocate any territory or territories among or between bookers.

4. That the Court order defendant NWA and its members not to interfere with, hinder, deter, or obstruct the booking by non-member bookers of professional wrestlers booked or managed by the defendant or any of its members.

5. That the Court order defendant NWA and its members to take such steps as may be necessary to permit any booker who is duly licensed or otherwise qualified to engage in such business to enjoy full membership and participation in the NWA.

6. That the Court enjoin the defendant and each of its members from agreeing with any booker, promoter or professional wrestler to recognize as champions or featured wrestlers only those professional wrestlers who agree to work exclusively through or for the NWA or its members, and from agreeing with any booker or promoter to limit the amount to be paid to any wrestler for engaging in an exhibition or to fix or establish admission charges for an exhibition.

7. That the plaintiff have such other, further and different relief as the Court may deem just and proper in the premises.

8. That the plaintiff recover the costs of this suit.

Dated: October 15, 1956

/s/ Herbert Brownell, Jr.
HERBERT BROWNELL, JR.
Attorney General

/s/ James M. McGrath
JAMES M. McGRATH

/s/ Victor R. Hansen
VICTOR R. HANSEN
Assistant Attorney General

/s/ Stanley E. Disney
STANLEY E. DISNEY

Attorneys, Department of Justice

/s/ Roy L. Stephenson
ROY L. STEPHENSON
United States Attorney

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CENTRAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff
v.
NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE,
Defendant

Civil Action No. 3-729
Filed: October 15, 1956

CIV. 3-729

FINAL JUDGMENT

Plaintiff United States of America having filed its complaint herein on October 15, 1956; defendant having filed its answer to the complaint denying the material allegations thereof; and plaintiff and defendant by their attorneys having consented to the entry of this Final Judgment, without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein and without this Final Judgment constituting evidence or an admission in respect to any such issue;

Now, therefore, before any testimony has been taken herein, and without trial or adjudication of any issue of fact or law herein, and upon consent as aforesaid of each party hereto, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

I

The Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action and of the parties hereto, and the complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted against defendant under Sections 1 and 2 of the Act of Congress dated July 2, 1890, entitled "An act to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies", commonly known as the Sherman Act, as amended.

II

As used in this Final Judgment:

(A) "Defendant" means defendant National Wrestling Alliance, a membership corporation organized under the laws of the State of Iowa;

(B) "Consenting member" means any member of defendant who submits to the jurisdiction of this Court and executes its consent to be bound and obligated by the terms of this Final Judgment;

(C) "Promoter" means any person engaged in sponsoring and presenting professional wrestling exhibitions;

(D) "Promoter-member" means any promoter who is a member of defendant;

(E) "Booker" means any person who, for a fee or commission, arranges with a promoter or promoters for the performance of wrestlers in professional wrestling exhibitions;

(F) "Booker-member" means any booker who is a member of defendant;

(G) "Studio exhibition" means any professional wrestling exhibition at which revenue is derived primarily from the television broadcast or filming thereof;

(H) "Related promotion" means any professional wrestling exhibition in which a booker also acts as a promoter or has a financial interest in addition to a claim for a booking fee or commission;

(I) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association or other business or legal entity.

III

(A) It appearing to this Court, pursuant to Section 5 of the Sherman Act, that the ends of justice require that all members of the defendant be brought before this Court, the members of the said defendant, as consenting members, hereby appear as additional parties waiving the necessity of being summoned and agree to be bound by the provisions of this Final Judgment;

(B) The provisions of this Final Judgment applicable to defendant or to any consenting member shall apply to such defendant or such consenting member, its officers, agents, servants, employees, subsidiaries, successors and assigns and to every person in active concert or participation with any of them who receives actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise.

IV

Defendant is ordered and directed:

(A) To forthwith cancel and void all its existing rules, regulations and bylaws;

(B) To forthwith adopt and enforce bylaws consistent with the terms of this Final Judgment;

(C) To include in any such new bylaws a provision requiring the expulsion of any member who violates this Final Judgment, engages in activities enumerated in any of the paragraphs of Section V of this Final Judgment or violates any rule, regulation or bylaw of defendant designed to comply with this Final Judgment;

(D) To admit to membership upon nondiscriminatory terms and conditions any booker or promoter if the applicant (1) has engaged in the business of booking or promoting wrestling exhibitions for two years or has promoted at least ten exhibitions in one year, (2) is financially responsible, (3) is licensed by any appropriate licensing authority or, where no licensing authority has jurisdiction, is of good moral character and (4) agrees in writing to be bound by the terms of this Final Judgment;

(E) To give to each new member a copy of this Final Judgment, and to specifically instruct each existing and future member that continuation of membership in defendant is dependent upon compliance with the terms of this Final Judgment.

V

(A) Defendant and consenting members are each jointly and severally enjoined and restrained from entering into, adhering to, promoting or following any course of conduct, practice or policy, or any agreement or understanding, having the purpose or effect of:

(1) Recognizing, approving or designating any booker or promoter as the exclusive booker or promoter in a designated area or territory;

(2) Preventing, restricting or impeding any booker or promoter from doing business in any area or territory;

(3) Restricting or limiting the promotion or booking of wrestling exhibitions to related promotions or to promoters or bookers who are members of defendant, or requiring, requesting or inducing any person so to do;

(4) Requiring, requesting or inducing any booker to book wrestling exhibitions only through promoter-members or to discriminate in favor of promoter-members;

(5) Requiring, requesting or urging any promoter to promote wrestling exhibitions only through the services of booker-members or to discriminate in favor of booker-members;

(6) Requiring, requesting or inducing any person to refuse to promote or book any wrestler;

(7) Preventing, restricting or impeding any wrestler, booker or promoter from participating in studio exhibitions or discriminating against any wrestler, promoter or booker because such person participated in the booking or promotion of studio exhibitions.

(B) Defendant and consenting members are each enjoined and restrained from refusing to book for any promoter any wrestler who is available (taking into consideration travel time and costs) and is being booked by defendant or such consenting member.

Nothing in this Section V shall obligate defendant or any consenting member to book any wrestler for any promoter (1) who is not duly licensed as such by the appropriate licensing authority or, (2) in the case of a promoter where there is no licensing authority, who is not financially responsible.

VI

Defendant is enjoined and restrained from:

(A) Except as required by Section IV herein, fixing, establishing, maintaining or adhering to any term or condition, including specifically

any term or condition stipulating performance payments, under which promoters or bookers shall promote or book any championship or other wrestling exhibition; provided that this subsection (A) shall not prevent defendant from charging promoters of championship wrestling exhibitions, if defendant is requested by the champion to book for him, a certain fixed percentage of the gross receipts of such wrestling exhibitions;

(B) Requiring, requesting, urging, advising or assisting any member to engage in any activity prohibited in any of the paragraphs herein.

VII

For the purpose of securing compliance with this Final Judgment and for no other purpose, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, duly authorized representatives of the Department of Justice shall, upon written request of the Attorney General, or the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, and on reasonable notice to defendant or any consenting member made to its principal office, be permitted (A) access during the office hours of such defendant or consenting member to all books, ledgers, accounts, correspondence, memoranda and other records and documents in the possession or under the control of such defendant or consenting member relating to any of the subject matters contained in this Final Judgment, and (B) subject to the reasonable convenience of such defendant or consenting member and without restraint or interference from it to interview officers or employees of such defendant or consenting member who may have counsel present, regarding any such matters; and upon such request defendant or any consenting member shall submit such reports in writing to the Department of Justice with respect to matters contained in this Final Judgment as may from time to time be necessary to the enforcement of this Final Judgment. No information obtained by the means provided in this Section VII shall be divulged by any representative of the Department of Justice to any person other than a duly authorized representative of the Department except in the course of legal proceedings to which the United States of America is a party for the purpose of securing compliance with this Final Judgment or as otherwise required by law.

VIII

Jurisdiction is retained for the purpose of enabling any of the parties to this Final Judgment to apply to this Court at any time for such further orders and directions as may be necessary or appropriate for the construction or carrying out of this Final Judgment or for the modification or termination of any of the provisions thereof, and for the enforcement of compliance therewith and punishment of violations thereof.

Dated: October 15, 1956

/s/ Wm. F. Riley
United States District Judge

We hereby consent to the making and entry of the foregoing Final Judgment:

For the Plaintiff:

/s/ Victor R. Hansen
Victor R. Hansen
Assistant Attorney General

/s/ Roy L. Stephenson, United States Attorney

/s/ James M. McGrath, Attorney, Department of Justice

/s/ Stanley E. Disney, Attorney, Department of Justice

/s/ W. D. Kilgore, Jr.

/s/ Charles F. B. McAleer

For the Defendant:

/s/ Harry N. Soffer
Harry N. Soffer
722 Chestnut Street
St. Louis, Missouri

/s/ John M. Ferguson
John M. Ferguson
234 Collinsville Avenue
East St. Louis, Illinois

/s/ Baker, Kagy & Wagner
Baker, Kagy & Wagner
234 Collinsville Ave.
East St. Louis, Illinois

OF COUNSEL

Attorneys for Defendant, National Wrestling Alliance

CONSENTING MEMBERS

Sam Muchnick	St. Louis 3, Mo., Claridge Hotel
Frank Tunney	Toronto, Canada
S. Lutteroth	Mexico City
Sam E. Avey	Tulsa, Okla.
Orville Brown	Kansas City, Mo.
Cal Eaton	Los Angeles
P. L. Pinkie George	Des Moines, Iowa
A. C. Haft	Reynoldsburg, Ohio
N. W. "Tex" Hager	Spokane, Wash.
Stewart E. Hart	Calgary, Canada
Paul Jones	Atlanta, Georgia
Joe "Toots" Mondt	New York, N. Y.
Jim Crockett	Charlotte, N. C.
Fred Kohler	Chicago, Ill.
Harry Light	Detroit, Mich.
Mike London	Albuquerque, N. M.
C. P. Cowboy Luttrall	Tampa, Fla.
Ignacio Martinez	Buffalo, N. Y.
Hugh Nichols	Hollywood, Cal.
Eddie Quinn	Montreal, Canada
Dave Reynolds	Orem, Utah
Karl Sarpolis	Amarillo, Texas
Dennis G. Stecher	Minneapolis, Minn.
Roy Welch	Dyersburg, Tenn.
Billy Wolfe	Columbus, Ohio

ADDITIONAL CONSENTING MEMBERS

Don Owen

Rudy Dusek

Paul Bowser

Max Clayton

Joe Gunther

Morris R. Sigel

Al Karasik

Cliff Maupin

James A. Whitfield
"Bill Lewis"

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Chicago Ill.

April 24 - 36

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a clipping taken from
the Chicago Herald and Examiner
of April 24, 1936.

A confessed gang of international
swindling swindlers and racketeers,
faking matches all over the country,
and bilking the public out of
hundreds of thousands of dollars
every year.

I think the Government should
launch a rigid investigation,
like in any other perpetrated
swindle

RECORDED & INDEXED

1899-4

Put those crooked trusts and
swindling racketeers out of
business.

MAY 4 1936

MAY 5 1936

From an

Interested Citizen.

JB

7807

Shocking! Rasslers Don't Really Rassel

Promoters Tell Big Boys to Win, Lose or Draw, Is Court Charge

COLUMBUS, O., April 23.—(AP)—Charges that a wrestling "trust" exists in the eastern half of America and that grapplers are forced to "win, lose or draw" according to orders, or lose huge forfeits, whirled through federal court here today.

The charges were hurled by defense counsel at Joe Alvarez, Boston matchmaker for Promoter Paul Bowser, sought an accounting of the earnings of Dick Shikat, claimant of the world's heavyweight title.

Alvarez said he had a contract as Shikat's manager, but that the latter repudiated it after taking the crown from Dannd O'Mahoney in Madison Square Garden on March 2.

MUST OBEY ORDERS.

Shikat's attorney, John Connor, asserted Shikat was forced to put up a forfeit to prove he would "obey orders," and that in the match with O'Mahoney was ordered to "lay down."

A temporary restraining order, banning Shikat from the ring until the case is settled, was dissolved by Federal Judge Mell G. Underwood soon after the hearing started. Alvarez' plea includes a request for a temporary injunction.

Shikat contends that Al Haft, Columbus promoter, is acting as his manager and that he signed the contract with Alvarez to get back part of an \$18,000 forfeit which he said the "trust" held. Haft is co-defendant with Shikat.

Only two of more than a score of witnesses reached the stand today. They were Jack Curley, New York promoter, and Garrett L. Smalley of Kansas City, chairman of the Missouri state athletic commission.

Curley said he was one of six

(Continued From Page 2, Sports)

promoters who entered into a ten-year agreement to split profits of wrestling matches, and named Paul Bowser of Boston, Ed White of Chicago, Tom Parks of St. Louis, Ray Fabiani of Philadelphia and Joe Mondt, a New York associate, as the others.

Shikat, his counsel said, came to this country from Germany, and was forced to throw aside his manager, Rudy Miller, and sign with one of the "trust" managers before he could get any matches.

After a while, Connor said, Shikat was forced to put up an \$18,000 forfeit to prove that he could "obey orders." The night of the O'Mahoney match in Madison Square Garden, Connor said, Shikat was ordered to "lay down" within forty-five minutes to the champion.

Shikat won the match in nineteen minutes, and refused to again meet O'Malley. The New York wrestling commission recognized Shikat as the heavyweight champion, but since the controversy with Alvarez arose, the wrestler has been suspended in eleven states.

Curley denied that Shikat had been ordered to lose the O'Malley match, and said he had never heard of a mat bout being "fixed."

Connor said the contract called for Shikat to receive a guarantee of \$4,000 a year, and 12½ per cent of 80 per cent of the net of each show. The percentage was to apply against the \$4,000. Curley admitted that Shikat's percentage was cut to 10 in all New York bouts, and the defense contended that such action constituted violation of contract and rendered it void.

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December 18, 1934.

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL WIDEMAR.

For any attention deemed appropriate by you, I am transmitting herewith a copy of an anonymous letter directed to the "Superintendent, Dept. of Justice, Detroit, Mich.", dated November 15, 1934 at Chicago, Illinois, concerning an alleged wrestling syndicate. The aforementioned letter was received by this Division from its Detroit office and was referred to Assistant Attorney General Stephens, who has informed that no action is contemplated by his Division.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Encl. #31513

1 yellow



ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

FWB

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 11, 1934.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION.

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum dated December 1, with which you enclosed copy of an anonymous letter dated November 15 and directed to your Chicago, Ill., office, concerning an alleged wrestling syndicate.

No investigation of this matter is desired by the Antitrust Division. Inasmuch as the anonymous letter makes certain allegations of tax violations by the persons named therein, it is suggested that a copy of the letter may be of interest to the Tax Division of this Department.

Harold M. Stephens
HAROLD M. STEPHENS,
Assistant Attorney General.

RECORDED

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COPY

November 15, 1934
Chicago, Ill.

Superintendent
Dept. of Justice
Detroit, Mich.

Gentlemen:

Have been in all departments of the wrestling game in the middle west for more than a score of years and being a taxpayer with a family, must confess that I have not seen nor heard of a more gigantic or a bigger lot of trimmers as now operating throughout the United States, who now control ninety per cent of all the wrestlers and are now trying to make it a hundred per cent.

They have a slush fund to buy State Athletic Commissions as they did in Pennsylvania where it cost them over twenty thousand dollars to pin the title on Jim London the home made champion.

They have there own home made wrestling association known as the National Wrestling Association which is being handled by Colonel Landry of Friars Point, Miss. and Earl Malone of Louisville, Ky. they operate and work as the trust desire.

The eastern magnate Paul Bowser of 115 Cheauncey St. Boston, Mass. operates through the state of Mass. with his gang of forty wrestlers and carries his own referee, he goes as far as broadcasting that he is the worried man of the syndicate.

Ed. White the crook of crooks known as the policeman and located in Chicago on Washington St. some years back hollered from the housetops from a theater during a wrestling show that all wrestling was a fake, he recently in Chicago pulled the London Lewis match and the world knows that he gave Lewis a big sum for laying down, which Lewis now regrets.

In Chicago and its immediate vicinity he takes the position of czar and tells you whether or not you can earn a living, they broadcast through his office that no wrestling, promoter or no wrestling show can function without them, he is the crook who also trimmed a certain paper in a charitable show some years ago. he has under his personal contract such wrestlers as Hans Steinke and many others who are used as policemen.

60-1799-2

Joe Mondt who took a hurried trip to California from New York is the champion tax dodger and who handles all the double cross deals of the trust, he is now featuring a five cent wrestler who cannot wrestle a lick on earth known as Man Mountain Dean, and is fleecing and trimming the natives of California, he pulled the famous Savoldi deal in Chicago, he is managing Ed. Lewis, and he and Ed. Lewis are managing Jim Browning, and He, Ed Lewis, Jim Browning are managing Joe Savoldi and so down the line.

Everett Marshall a good tough wrestler who was promised the championship was recently sold by one of the members, Billy Sandow, to Tom Parks of the Maryland Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, so as to give a longer life to the championship to Jim London who has purchased through his manager, the crook Ed. White, every big match that he has had in the past five years.

This trust was formed the latter part of 1933 in New York City and the protection money is being held by a prominent man in New York, the final decision which will be soon unless the gangsters change their plans on this expose that Paul Bowser's Ed. Don George will be elected the title of world's heavyweight championship.

Ed. White the crook of all crooks put this deal over in New York City under threat that he would turn policeman if the following charter members would not sign on the dotted line which they did, the nine who are in positive control in the United States and who are splitting the money nine ways, earned by ninety per cent of the heavyweights throughout the United States which they own and positively control are as follows:

Paul Bowser of 115 Chauncey St., Boston, Mass.
Ed. White of 166 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
Joe Mondt of 1482 Broadway, New York, N.Y., or Los Angeles, Cal.
Tom Parks of Maryland Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.
Billy Sandow of Los Angeles, Cal.
Jim London, c/o Ed. White 166 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
Ed. Lewis, c/o Joe Mondt 1482 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
Jim Browning, c/o Joe Mondt 1482 Broadway, New York, N. Y.
Ed. Don George, c/o Paul Bowser, 115 Chauncey St., Boston, Mass.

- 3 -

Would not an investigation of these trimmers be a blessing to the public over the United States and keep these high binders from fleecing further and giving tax paying wrestlers, promoters and other square men an opportunity to make a livelihood, which would certainly be appreciated by many of us.

Very truly yours,

A PROMINENT PERSON IN
THE WRESTLING GAME.

Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

P.O. Drawer 367
San Francisco, California.

KPG/AP.

Dec. 13, 1934.

Director,
Division of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Ave. at Ninth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

As of possible interest to the Division, I am transmitting herewith three copies of an anonymous letter dated Nov. 15, 1934, complaining of irregularities in connection with the National Wrestling Association.

Very truly yours,

E. P. Guinane
WRG

E. P. Guinane,
Special Agent in Charge.

3 Incls.

RECORDED & INDEXED

DEC 27 1934

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SERIALIZED	FILED

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*Note: Letter by
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December 1, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL STEPHENS.

Transmitted herewith is a copy of an anonymous letter directed to the "Superintendent, Dept. of Justice, Detroit, Mich.", dated November 15, 1934, at Chicago, Illinois, concerning an alleged wrestling syndicate. This letter was received by this Division from its Detroit Office.

The Division desires to be informed if any investigation is desired in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Inclosure No. 818864.

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WAS IN ENCL
12-1-34

RECEIVED
DEC 1 1934
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

P. O. Box 2113
Detroit, Michigan
November 21, 1934

Director
Division of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith for the information of the Division and the Chicago Office, copies of anonymous letter directed to the "Superintendent, Dept. of Justice, Detroit, Mich.", dated November 15, 1934, from Chicago, Illinois, which concerns an alleged wrestling syndicate.

Very truly yours,



Wm. Larson
Special Agent in Charge

WL:bas
cc - Chicago

Handwritten notes:
N 211
YV

Handwritten notes:
Memo. Stephens
12/1/34
1253

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&
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